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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/567,385

07/28/2006

Franc Arnold

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27623

7590

01/06/2010

OHLANDT, GREELEY, RUGGIERO & PERLE, LLP  
ONE LANDMARK SQUARE, 10TH FLOOR  
STAMFORD, CT 06901

EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3656

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/567,385	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ARNOLD, FRANC	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vicky A. Johnson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3656	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-27 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 20-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17, 19, and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                        | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "the clamping means" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-15, 17, 19, 25, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grätz et al (US 6,421,879), as best understood.

Grätz et al disclose a bicycle bar grip comprising a sleeve (1) comprising a sleeve slot (3), the sleeve comprising a clamping area arranged at an edge of the sleeve (right side), a holding bar end extension (31) comprising a clamp (32) connected with the sleeve in the clamping areas, and a grip element (7) connected with the sleeve, wherein the grip element comprises a supporting portion for supporting a palm of a user and a holding portion, which form a common grip surface (see Fig 9B at 25).

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Re claim 3, the clamp is configured as a holding bar end extension (31).

Re claim 5, the grip element comprises a holding portion forming an integral unit with the supporting portion and projecting into the clamping area (see Fig 9B)

Re claim 11, the holding portion has an inner contour corresponding at least partially to an outer contour of the holding bar end extension or the clamp (see Fig 10).

Re claim 12, at the supporting portion has a contour (see Fig 9B).

Re claim 13, both the clamp and the grip element are at least partially covered by a shell covering particularly the clamp of the holding bar end extension (see Fig 15).

Re claim 14, the shell is configured at least partially as a spacing fabric (66).

Re claim 17, the grip element comprises a connection projection projecting into the clamping area (see Fig 10).

Re claim 19, the clamp comprises a screw (35) cooperating with a blind bore thread, the screw being completely sunk in the clamp (see Fig 11).

Re claim 25, the bicycle bar grip has an offset relative to a handlebar (see Fig 9B).

Re claim 26, the offset is caused by a thickening provided substantially in the middle of the grip element (see Fig 9B)

Re claim 27, the holding bar end extension (31) or the clamp (32) and the grip (7) have a positive connection (36a, 36b) there between (see Fig 10).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Some further comments regarding the applicant's remarks are deemed appropriate.

Applicant argues that the Gratz et al reference fails to meet the limitations of the claims because it fails to disclose the supporting portion for supporting the palm. Gratz et al show in Figure 9B a supporting portion 25. The limitation "for supporting the palm" is intended use and the supporting portion of Gratz et al is capable of supporting the palm of a user.

Applicant's remarks have been accorded due consideration, however, they are not deemed fully persuasive.

### ***Conclusion***

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vicky A. Johnson/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3656